



Company Theatre presents

Jonathan Holloway's
DARKNESS FALLS
an evening of suspense and mystery

The Monkey's Paw
an adaptation of W.W. Jacobs' short story

The Dark

directed by
Lynne Davis

at the
**Rose Centre,
Belmont**

**Saturday
March
24th - 31st, 2001**

DARKNESS FALLS

Mike Baker introduces our evening and sets the mood of mystery and suspense
by reading

Was it a Dream?

A short story by Guy de Maupassant (1850 - 1893)

THE MONKEY'S PAW

Adapted by Jonathan Holloway from the short story by W W Jacobs.

The play takes place in the combined kitchen and living room of a modest working class household in Sunderland in the industrial north of England. The date is 1948. The play begins on a stormy evening ...

Mother	:	Sian Davies
Father	:	Steve Wright
Herbert White	:	Aaron Whitehouse
Sergeant-Major Morris	:	John Burton
Man from the Works	:	Richard Parmee

INTERVAL

THE DARK

By Jonathan Holloway

The play takes place in the living room of a substantial eighteenth century house on the Northumberland coast in the north of England. It is a stormy New Year's Eve in present time ...

Simian Black	:	Bob Stevens
Richard Legg	:	Richard Parmee
Emma Landon-Philes	:	Susan Landeg
Tony Price	:	Nigel Flockhart

A note from the Director: although this is my first production with Company Theatre, I have been welcomed and made to feel very much 'at home', not just by the committee and production team, but by the cast members, many of whom I have worked with in the past. *Darkness Falls* has been challenging, to say the least, but due to everyone's enthusiasm and co-operation through the rehearsal period, most gratifying. I thank them for their trust, and wish the cast members and Company Theatre, a happy and successful season.

LYNNE DAVIS

MIKE BAKER has a 42 year history in commercial radio in New Zealand; in the 1970s he managed Radio Hauraki and Radio I. He opened the first private radio network in New Zealand in Alexandra and then returned to talkback in 1985. For the last 16 years he has been a host with Radio Pacific Network and most recently has set up the Devonport Flea, establishing community radio in Devonport. Jim Anderton will be formally opening the station in the next few weeks. Mike acted as a boy with the Thespians in Wellington and is delighted to be amongst local people who are 'up front': people who, like him, love to act and to present.

SIAN DAVIS: this is Sian's second appearance on stage for Company Theatre – Marjorie, the Mother-in-Law from Hell in *Just Between Ourselves* being the first. Hopefully this is a somewhat more endearing mother, coping in a world gone ever so slightly bonkers – and Hell is here!

STEVE WRIGHT: a dedicated thespian from way back, Steve has played a variety of roles, the most recent Pa Larkin in *Darling Buds of May* for Howick Theatre, Sam in *Sisters Rosensweig* for Dolphin Theatre and the Porter in Shakespeare's *Macbeth* for Titirangi Drama. Steve has directed over 15 plays including *Outside Edge* and *Social Climbers* for Company Theatre, *Via Satellite* and *Bert & Maisie* for Dolphin Theatre.

AARON WHITEHOUSE: Aaron (aged 17), one of the younger members of Company Theatre, made his theatrical debut when he was four. Many of you will remember Aaron from Junior Company Theatre productions. "It is a refreshing change to be in a drama as I usually perform in musicals, and I have enjoyed working with such experienced actors".

JOHN BURTON has been with Company Theatre for 5 years and has been busy both on stage and behind the scenes. Last year was a busy year for John with 3 plays *How the Other Half Loves*, *The Pain and the Passion* and *Outside Edge*. John is just beginning his second term as Club President.

RICHARD PARMEE: back on the boards. It's been too long but what a wonderful challenge it's been. I love (Company) Theatre and all the people involved with this show. Thanks Lynne.

BOB STEVENS has recently been playing in a trilogy of Ayckbourn comedies. He said he'd "like to play someone a bit evil for a change". He got his way.

SUSAN LANDEG: this is Susan's second only foray with the Rose Centre and Company Theatre. After a string of musicals she is finding it a pleasure to return to drama, with a talented cast, and finally the chance to work under the directorship of Lynne Davis.

NIGEL FLOCKHART: prior to working for the Caledonian Times, Nigel held posts as Alex in *Outside Edge*, Tesman in *Hedda Gabler* and Arthur in *Lord Arthur Saville's Crime*, all for Company Theatre. Previous experience also includes work with Pumphouse Winter Classics and Mairangi Players and originally Gisborne Theatre Arts as musical correspondent.

SAMUEL BUTLER gets a mention in *The Dark*. He lived from 1835 to 1902. Best known in New Zealand for *Erewhon*, he also wrote *Higgledy Piggledy - An Apology for the Devil*. "It must be remembered that we have only heard one side of the case. God has written all the books."

Darkness Falls was commissioned by the Palace Theatre in Watford, England and it received its first public performance on 29th January 1999.

Jonathan Holloway adapted *The Monkey's Paw*, WW Jacobs' 1902 classic tale of suspense, into a one act play set just after WWII. *The Dark* is an original companion piece set in contemporary time.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	: Lynne Davis	Costumes	: Christine McKie
Production Manager	: John Burton		Annette Hallam
Stage Manager	: Sue Parmee	Set Design	: Angie Holmes
Lighting Design	: Phil Searle	Set Artist	: Sian Davies
Lighting Operator	: Anthony Whitehouse	Set Construction	:
Sound	: Sarah-Jane Burton		Phil Davis, Tony Sandy, Doug Bourke,
Properties	: Maureen Kenny		John Burton, Lynne Davis, Helen Davies,
Publicity	: Kathy Gent		Angie Holmes, Sue Landeg, Sue Parmee,
Programme	: Sheila Stevens		Anne Rimmer, Phil Searle, Bob Stevens,
Photography	: Sherry Ede		Sheila Stevens, Anthony Whitehouse
Front of House	: Doug Bourke		

Company Theatre extends its sincere thanks to the following:

Phil Davis Builders Ltd for the donation of the dresser.

Sian Davis for painting the artworks.

Torbay Dramatic Society for help with the set and general support.

Lejose Fashion House for Emma's dress.

All those people not mentioned in the programme who contributed in any way to the production.

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